

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4331

To provide for the establishment of an interpretive center and museum at Fort Peck Dam, Montana, and to provide further protection for significant fossil remains in the vicinity of Fort Peck Dam.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 1998

Mr. HILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of an interpretive center and museum at Fort Peck Dam, Montana, and to provide further protection for significant fossil remains in the vicinity of Fort Peck Dam.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fort Peck Paleontolog-
5 ical Protection and Interpretation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) It is in the national interest to preserve and
2 protect paleontological finds.

3 (2) The extensive paleontological finds near
4 Fort Peck Dam, Montana, including the recent dis-
5 covery of the remains of a tyrannosaurus rex, pro-
6 vide an opportunity to educate the public regarding
7 the cultural, historical, and paleontological resources
8 of the Fort Peck Dam area.

9 (3) The establishment of an interpretive center
10 and museum at Fort Peck Dam, which is the site
11 of the first major paleontological discovery in Mon-
12 tana, presents an opportunity to continue preserving
13 these paleontological finds while educating persons
14 nationwide and abroad.

15 (4) In support of this opportunity, the Fort
16 Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum, Inc.
17 has worked cooperatively with the appropriate Fed-
18 eral agencies in preserving important paleontological
19 finds such as the tyrannosaurus rex.

20 (5) The Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center
21 and Museum, Inc., has entered into partnerships
22 with leading educational institutions and has taken
23 the lead in providing community support for such
24 preservation efforts.

1 (6) The Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center
2 and Museum, Inc., would continue to work with the
3 Smithsonian Institution and accredited educational
4 institutions on preserving paleontological resources.

5 **SEC. 3. FORT PECK DAM INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND MU-**
6 **SEUM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER AND MUSEUM.—
8 The Secretary of the Army shall design, construct, fur-
9 nish, and equip an interpretive center and museum, to be
10 located on project lands of the Army Corps of Engineers
11 at Fort Peck Dam, Montana, for the purpose of preserving
12 and interpreting the historical, cultural, and paleontolog-
13 ical resources of the Fort Peck Dam area.

14 (b) PROJECT PURPOSE.—To permit the carrying out
15 of subsection (a), the purpose of the Fort Peck Dam
16 project shall include paleontology in addition to the other
17 project purposes.

18 (c) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—In order to en-
19 sure protection of significant fossil remains on Federal
20 lands in the vicinity of Fort Peck Dam, the Secretary of
21 Agriculture shall transfer, without reimbursement, a par-
22 cel of real property consisting of approximately 360 acres
23 located in section 22, township 25 north, range 43 east,
24 McCone County, Montana, to the administrative jurisdic-
25 tion of the Secretary of the Army. The transferred prop-

erty shall be administered by the Secretary of the Army as part of the project lands of the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Peck Dam.

(d) COORDINATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army shall coordinate with the Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum, Inc., and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Secretary of the Army shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Directors of such agencies and with the Corporation to provide for the operation, maintenance, and management of the completed interpretive center and museum.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$10,000,000. Funds appropriated shall be available until expended.

